

Message Text

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15

ACTION PA-02

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TAGS: PFOR KS

SUBJECT: ROPER REPORT ON PUBLIC OPINION RE SOUTH KOREA

REF: STATE 219300

1. WHILE NOT WISHING APPEAR QUERULOUS AND PROFESSING NO SPECIAL EXPERTISE IN SURVEY RESEARCH TECHNIQUES, WE ARE SURPRISED BY UNDULY PESSIMISTIC CASTE TO DEPARTMENT INTERPRETATIONS OF ROPER POLL (REFTEL). FOR EXAMPLE, SUMMARY (PARAS 8-10) DOES NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT 65 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS FAVOR CONTINUING STATIONING OF U.S. FORCES IN KOREA, A STRONG PLUS.

2. FURTHERMORE, IN PARA 10 THERE IS ONE APPARENT STATISTICAL ERROR. ROPER POLL STATES ONE IN EVERY FIVE AMERICANS WHO WANT TO REDUCE THE COMMITMENT ANYWAY WOULD SUPPLY ALL ARMS AND AID NEEDED. HOW DOES THIS BECOME ONLY ONE IN TEN OF THE TOTAL SAMPLE? PROPER FIGURE WOULD PRESUMABLY BE OVER 50 PERCENT, INCLUDING THE 43 PERCENT OF ALL AMERICANS WHO FAVORED STANDING BY THE COMMITMENT.

3. THIS NOT A MERE EXERCISE IN PLAYING WITH FIGURES. REFERENCE SEEMS BADLY OUT OF WHACK WITH CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN X-1 OF EPF 177, SEPTEMBER 12, WHICH OUR USIS ASKED FOR AND CONTAINS MORE OPTIMISTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE FIGURES THAN THE STATE ANALYSIS AND UPON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DRAWING IN CONVERSATIONS. WHILE ADMITTEDLY UNSCIENTIFIC, OUR READING OF CONGRESSIONAL

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FEELINGS AS EXPRESSED BY THE SMALL LEGION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATORS

WHO PASSED THROUGH HERE THIS SUMMER DISPLAYS CONSIDERABLY GREATER SENTIMENT TOWARD STANDING BY THE COMMITMENTS THAN DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS OF THE ROPER FIGURES. THIS MAY BE COMPARING APPLES AND ORANGES, BUT THE DISPARITIES ARE STRIKING, TO SAY THE LEAST.

4. WE ARE PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED THAT REFTEL WILL BE VIEWED AS OFFICIAL PUBLIC ANALYSIS OF ROPER POLL, SINCE IT IS MARKED TO BE DECONTROLLED UPON RECEIPT. WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER REVIEW BEFORE ANALYSIS IS DISSEMINATED PUBLICLY.
SNEIDER

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